

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber connector comprising:

a bottom portion having a groove;

a top portion; and

a first wedge and a second wedge that are configured to fit at least partially between the top portion and the bottom portion while the top portion is attached to the bottom portion;

wherein the first wedge is configured to bear against and to press a first optical fiber into the groove when the first wedge is activated by being slid toward the second wedge; and

wherein the second wedge is configured to bear against and to press a second optical fiber into the groove when the second wedge is activated by being slid toward the first wedge;

at least one of said wedges being movable a distance sufficient to produce an optical coupling of the fibers.

16. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the connector is configured such that when the first wedge and the second wedge are activated, the first optical fiber and the second optical fiber are optically coupled.

17. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to reduce an amount of pressure applied on the first optical fiber by the first wedge when the first wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the second wedge.

18. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to enable the first optical fiber to be removed from the optical fiber connector when the first wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the second wedge.

19. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the second wedge is configured to reduce an amount of pressure applied on the second optical fiber when the second wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the first wedge.

20. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the second wedge is configured to enable the second optical fiber to be removed from the optical fiber connector when the second wedge is de-activated by being slid away from the first wedge.

21. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge is configured to press a first plurality of optical fibers into a plurality of grooves in the bottom portion when the first wedge is activated, and the second wedge is configured to press a second plurality of optical fibers into the plurality of grooves when the second wedge is activated.

22. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the bottom portion has a plurality of larger V-grooves and a plurality of smaller V-grooves, each larger V-groove being wider than each smaller V-groove.

23. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 22, wherein each larger V-grooves is longitudinally aligned with a respective smaller V-groove and with a respective larger V-groove.

24. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 23, wherein the plurality of larger V-grooves are configured to support buffered portions of respective optical fibers.

25. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 24, wherein the plurality of smaller V-grooves are configured to support exposed portions of respective optical fibers.

26. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 15, wherein the first wedge and the second wedge each include a head portion and a body portion.

27. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 26, wherein the body portion has a sloping wedge surface and a bottom wedge surface.

28. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 27, wherein each head portion has an activation surface that can be pressed to activate a corresponding wedge, and a de-activation surface that can be pressed to de-activate the corresponding wedge.

29. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 28, wherein the first wedge and the second wedge are placed between the top portion and the bottom portion before the top portion is attached to the bottom portion.

30. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 29, wherein after the top portion is attached to the bottom portion, each sloping wedge surface faces a sloping bottom surface of the top portion, and each wedge head is accessible via an opening in the top portion.

31. (Original) The optical fiber connector of claim 30, wherein sliding the first wedge toward the second wedge causes the sloping wedge surface of the first wedge to press against a respective one of the sloping bottom surfaces of the top portion.

32. (Original) A method for coupling a first optical fiber to a second optical fiber via a connector, the method comprising:

sliding a first wedge in a first direction relative to the connector to cause the first optical fiber to be pressed into a groove that is embossed in a portion of the connector;
and

sliding a second wedge in a second direction that is opposite to the first direction relative to the connector to cause the second optical fiber to be pressed into the groove.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein sliding the first wedge in the first direction and sliding the second object in the second direction cause the first optical fiber and the second optical fiber to be optically coupled.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
sliding the first wedge in the second direction to enable the first optical fiber to be removed from the connector.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
sliding the second wedge in the first direction to enable the second optical fiber to be removed from the connector.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein sliding the first wedge in the first direction causes a first plurality of optical fibers to be pressed into a plurality of grooves that are embossed in a portion of the connector, and sliding the second wedge in the second direction causes a second plurality of optical fibers to be pressed into the plurality of grooves.